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## The New Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan President Barack Obama's Speech from West Point

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**DECEMBER 1, 2009**

*"Our friends have fought and bled and died alongside us in Afghanistan. And now, we must come together to end this war successfully."*  
-- [President Barack Obama's Address, December 1, 2009](#)

On December 1, 2009, President Barack Obama outlined his administration's strategy on Afghanistan and Pakistan during a speech at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in West Point, New York. During his remarks, President Obama stated that in cooperation with our friends and allies the United States seeks to "disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaida in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and to prevent its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future."

### The New Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan –



“For unlike the great powers of old, we have not sought world domination. Our union was founded in resistance to oppression. We do not seek to occupy other nations. We will not claim another nation's resources or target other peoples because their faith or ethnicity is different from ours. What we have fought for -- what we continue to fight for -- is a better future for our children and grandchildren. And we believe that their lives will be better if other peoples' children and grandchildren can live in freedom and access opportunity.” Read the transcript of the President Obama's speech: [English](#) | [Other Languages](#) || Watch the full video: [mp4](#) (419MB) | [mp3](#) (31MB) || [View photo gallery](#)

**Fact Sheet: The Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan** - President Obama's speech reaffirms the goals of disrupting, dismantling, and eventually defeating al Qaeda and to prevent their return to either Afghanistan or Pakistan. To do so, the United States and its allies will surge their forces, targeting elements of the insurgency and securing key population centers, training Afghan forces, transferring responsibility to a capable Afghan

partner, and increasing their partnership with Pakistanis who are facing the same threats. Read the Fact Sheet: [English](#) || [Thai](#)

**A Taste of President's Key Messages** - During President Obama's speech the White House sent out key lines as they were delivered on Twitter, offering a taste of the President's key messages. Read more [here](#).

**What I Heard Last Night** – “Last night, I accompanied the President to West Point as he spoke to the American people about his decision on the way forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan. This was an important moment for America, delivered in a stirring yet sober setting. Over four thousand people filled Eisenhower Hall -- proud and patriotic cadets and their families, West Point leadership, and members of the local community.” Read the White House blog by General Jim Jones [here](#).

**Troop Surge Will Allow Afghans to Assume Security Responsibility** – President Barack Obama announced on December 1 that the United States will send an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan to “seize the initiative” from violent extremists and responsibly transfer the country’s security to Afghan forces beginning in July 2011. In addition, President Obama stated that the United States will reinforce Afghan civil and economic development, and support Pakistan’s efforts to achieve security and enhance development. Read more [here](#).



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